

**SENATE . . . . . No. 313**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Barbara L'Italien***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a discretionary grant program for students with autism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Robert L. Hedlund</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

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By Mrs. L'Italien, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 313) of Barbara L'Italien, Carolyn C. Dykema, Marjorie C. Decker, Anne M. Gobi and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a discretionary grant program for students with autism. Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act to establish a discretionary grant program for students with autism.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1: Chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after Section 16, the following section:-  
3 Section 17-- The department of elementary and secondary education shall, subject to  
4 appropriation, establish and administer a discretionary grant program with the purpose of  
5 providing monies and assistance to school committees that wish to improve the provision of  
6 service and support to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the least restrictive  
7 environment; provided that the grant program shall support school committees in the  
8 development of programs and the preparation of personnel experienced in the area of autism  
9 spectrum disorder; Said program and the preparation of personnel shall specially address the  
10 verbal and nonverbal communication needs of the child; the need to develop social interaction  
11 skills and proficiencies; the skills and proficiencies needed to avoid and respond to bullying,  
12 harassment or teasing; the needs resulting from resistance to environmental change or change in

13 daily routines; the needs resulting from engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped  
14 movements; the need for an positive behavioral interventions, strategies, and supports to address  
15 any behavioral difficulties resulting from autism spectrum disorder; transition needs of youth  
16 ages 14-22 to support employment, higher education, and independent living; and other needs  
17 resulting from the child's disability that impact progress in the general curriculum in the least  
18 restrictive environment, including social and emotional development.